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EDWIN BLANCO

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

EDWIN BLANCO,
Plaintiff,
v.
JENNIFER LOPEZ,
Defendant.

Case No. 2:25-cv-4463

**COMPLAINT FOR COPYRIGHT
INFRINGEMENT**

Jury Trial Demanded

Plaintiff Edwin Blanco for his Complaint against Defendant Jennifer Lopez,
alleges as follows:

JURISDICTION

1. This action arises under the Copyright Act of 1976, Title 17 U.S.C. § 101 et seq. This Court therefore has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action under 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and 28 U.S.C. § 1338.

PARTIES

Plaintiff Blanco

2. Plaintiff Edwin Blanco is a freelance photographer and regularly licenses photographs to numerous top-tier outlets. Throughout his illustrious career, he has had the privilege of working with an array of globally recognized and prestigious clients, including industry leaders and iconic brands. His exceptional talent in

1 photography has been sought after by countless celebrities throughout the world.
2 These collaborations underscore Mr. Blanco's unmatched talent and impeccable
3 reputation within the industry. His photographs have graced magazine covers and
4 marketing materials of world-renowned brands, a testament to his remarkable skill
5 and ability to consistently deliver extraordinary visual content.

6 3. Mr. Blanco often licenses his photographs for a variety of reasons,
7 including for celebrity news stories.

8 4. Mr. Blanco is domiciled in the State of California and resides in Los
9 Angeles.

10 ***Defendant Lopez***

11 5. Jennifer Lopez is a Grammy-nominated, multi-hyphenate entertainer
12 whose career spans more than three decades. As a global pop icon, she has released
13 multiple chart-topping singles and albums, including several certified gold and
14 platinum. Widely recognized as one of the most influential Latin artists in the world,
15 Ms. Lopez has been honored for her contributions to music, dance, and film, and was
16 ranked No. 16 on VH1's list of the 100 Greatest Women in Music.

17 6. On information and belief, Ms. Lopez is domiciled in the State of
18 California and resides in the city of Hidden Hills.

19 7. On information and belief, Ms. Lopez owns, operates, or is responsible
20 for the content that appears on the account @jlo on the social media platform
21 Instagram, and on the @JLo account on the social media platform on X, formerly
22 Twitter.

23 ***Personal Jurisdiction and Venue***

24 8. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Ms. Lopez because she is
25 domiciled and resides in this State and this judicial district.

26 9. Venue in this judicial district is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1400(a).

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BACKGROUND FACTS

10. Mr. Blanco owns and holds the copyright of two photographic images depicting Ms. Lopez arriving and departing the Amazon MGM Studios x Vanity Fair Party at Bar Marmont in Los Angeles on January 4, 2025, the night before the Golden Globe Awards (the “Images”).

11. Within 90 days of first publication, the Images were registered with the U.S. Copyright Office as Reg. No. VA 2-431-205 (eff. Jan. 6, 2025).

12. Mr. Blanco captured the Images to document and highlight the event itself, not to focus on Ms. Lopez specifically. Nevertheless, Ms. Lopez used the Images for her own purposes without contacting Mr. Blanco or seeking a license.

13. Specifically, on January 5, 2025—the day of the Golden Globe Awards—Ms. Lopez, or someone acting with her authority and on her behalf, copied the Images and posted them to her official social media accounts on Instagram and X (formerly Twitter).

14. The Images were used to promote Ms. Lopez’s public appearances, boost user engagement, increase shareability, and lend credibility to her branded content—each of which enhanced the growth, reach, and perceived authority of Ms. Lopez’s digital presence. Following her posts, the Images were rapidly disseminated across a wide range of web sites and third-party social media accounts, including high-visibility fan and fashion pages. One post appeared on an account with over 14 million followers, and others included: jenniferlopez_fanclub, accesototalshow, adriennelandau, couturevision, dostin.jlover, glammonaco, jlo_chicago, jlomybff, jlopez.latin, jlover.4ever, jloverpr, lislopees, lucasbylucasdlarosa, marieclairerussia, merleginsberg, ritmo.do, silviatcherassi, and z_jlover.

15. One particularly egregious example of the unauthorized commercial exploitation of the Images occurred 22 minutes after Ms. Lopez’s postings, when the fashion brand Adrienne Landau posted the Images to its official Instagram account. The caption explicitly credited Ms. Lopez for “channeling old Hollywood glamour”

1 while wearing an archival Adrienne Landau faux fur coat at the event. This use
2 directly leveraged Mr. Blanco's photographs to market the brand's products,
3 showcasing the coat's connection to a celebrity appearance and generating
4 promotional value for both the designer and Ms. Lopez, all without permission or
5 compensation to Mr. Blanco.

6 16. Ms. Lopez's unauthorized use of the Images is commercial in nature,
7 intended for the purpose of self-promotion. For example, Ms. Lopez used the Images
8 to spotlight the designer of her clothing and jewelry, leveraging the publicity from the
9 event to promote her fashion affiliations and brand partnerships.

10 17. On January 16, 2025, a representative communicated to Ms. Lopez on
11 behalf of Mr. Blanco, notifying her of the infringements. In response, Ms. Lopez's
12 representative confirmed that she was interested in an informal resolution, and after
13 fruitful discussions by telephone over the following weeks, a settlement was reached
14 in principle on a payment term, with remaining terms to be memorialized in writing,
15 subject to negotiation and consent, to be signed by both parties.

16 18. On or about February 2, 2025, Larry Del Santo, President of
17 Defendant's production company, Nuyorican Productions, requested that Mr. Blanco
18 provide a signed settlement agreement and corresponding invoice in connection with
19 a negotiated resolution of the infringement claims. Mr. Blanco promptly did so.

20 19. As of the filing of this Complaint, Ms. Lopez has not signed the
21 settlement agreement, performed its obligations, or consented to its terms (aside from
22 the payment term) in any other way.

23 20. As of the time of this Complaint, the infringements are ongoing in that
24 the Images continue to be displayed on Ms. Lopez's social media accounts.

25 21. Lopez has previously been involved in litigation concerning the
26 unauthorized use of photographs in this judicial district (*see* Case No. 2:19-cv-08598).
27 This prior litigation placed Ms. Lopez on notice regarding the legal requirements and
28 potential consequences associated with the use of copyrighted images without proper

1 authorization. Despite this, Ms. Lopez has continued to engage in similar conduct,
2 demonstrating a willful disregard for Mr. Blanco's copyrights through a pattern of
3 behavior that undermines the rights of content creators.

4 **CLAIM ONE**

5 **(For Copyright Infringement, 17 U.S.C. § 501)**

6 22. All prior paragraphs are incorporated into this claim.

7 23. Plaintiff is the copyright owner of the protected Images named above in
8 this Complaint.

9 24. Defendant has reproduced, displayed, or otherwise copied the Images
10 without Plaintiff's authorization or license.

11 25. The foregoing acts of Defendant infringed upon the exclusive rights
12 granted to copyright owners under 17 U.S.C. § 106 to display, reproduce, and
13 distribute their work to the public. Such actions and conduct constitute copyright
14 infringement in violation of 17 U.S.C. §§ 501 et seq.

15 26. Plaintiff has complied in all respects with 17 U.S.C §§ 101 et seq. and
16 secured and registered the exclusive rights and privileges in and to the copyright of
17 the above-referenced work in accordance with 17 U.S.C § 408.

18 27. Plaintiff suffered damages as a result of Defendant's unauthorized use of
19 the Images.

20 28. Having timely registered copyright in the Infringed Images, Plaintiff is
21 entitled to elect statutory damages under 17 U.S.C. § 412 and § 504(c), in an amount
22 of not less than \$750 or more than \$30,000 per infringement of each work.

23 29. Plaintiff alleges, on information and belief, that Defendant's actions were
24 intentional or in reckless disregard of Plaintiff's copyrights, and that such actions
25 support an award of enhanced statutory damages for willful infringement under the
26 Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. § 504(c)(2), in the sum of up to \$150,000 per infringed
27 work.
28

1 F. For actual or reasonable attorney fees, court costs, expert witness fees,
2 and all other costs authorized by agreement or under law;

3 G. For such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

4 **JURY TRIAL DEMAND**

5 Plaintiff demands a trial by jury of all issues permitted by law.

6
7 Dated: May 17, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

8 **PERKOWSKI LEGAL, PC**

9
10 By: /s/ Peter Perkowski

11 Peter E. Perkowski

12 Attorneys for Plaintiff
13 EDWIN BLANCO
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